

Remarks


The allowance of claims 9 and 11 is noted with appreciation, as is the indicated allowability of claims 26, 27 and 30. Although exception is taken to the art rejections and related comments made in the last Office Action, the claims have been amended to place the allowable claims in proper form for allowance, to depend certain rejected claims from an allowable claim, and to cancel other claims. It is noted, in particular, that allowed claim 11, which prior to the foregoing amendments depended from cancelled claim 10, has been amended to depend from allowed claim 9 as was previously intended.

Accordingly, this application now contains only claims that have been allowed, indicated to be allowable, or depended from an allowable claim.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: April 2, 2004


Jennifer A. Moore

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